

THE BIRTH OF A NEW YEAR.

AN AUSPICIOUS EVENT DULY HONORED BY SOCIETY.

Yesterday was, most emphatically, the caller's day. Clear skies above and a dry street below combined to make walking a pleasure, while the absence of keen winds or biting frosts rendered the chances of the day's being a success very much in the balance. The only sorrowful man in the city was the liverly stable keeper, and his address was of but brief duration, for, finding customers few and far between, he generally ended his sulkily fit by "going the rounds" in one of his own vehicles.

Called by the way, the caller yesterday, probably, than it ever has been in this city, and from the highest to the lowest "revolving" seemed to be all the fashion. Some unassuming men called at but a few places, while others again, took in every barroom that came in their way, and when night fell they were found in the city streets, the latter were bilious and in a constant vociferating something in a strange tongue—a very thick tongue—about remembrance of the day's events, and the fact that the day's work should have been done yesterday morning.

At the white house.

The great magnet was the executive mansion, and thitherward did thousands of loyal citizens went their way. Anything more beautiful in the line of interior decoration has never been seen in the city. The rooms of the white house so attractive yesterday could hardly be imagined. Flowers and plants refreshingly sweet were scattered in all the public apartments.

The most elaborate work had been done in the blue room, where a magnificent display of flowers, plants, and palms, in gold vases, while the window recesses were filled with palms and poinsettias in full bloom. Hanging in graceful festoons from the chandeliers were garlands of amaranth, and wherever the eye wandered there could be seen the most beautiful of flowers.

There was no attempt to form a vulgar mass of colors; the decorations were simple, but very effective.

A new music band, 11 o'clock the Marine band, which was stationed in the vestibule, began to play "Hail to the Chief," and the President, in a graceful gesture, turned to the right, and bowed to the band.

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PROMINENT SOCIETY LADIES.

With Their Aids Kept Busy Entertaining Their Callers.

Speaker and Mrs. Carlisle held an animated reception at the Riggs house. Mrs. Carlisle wore a trained dress of cream tulle, with panels of embroidered silk.

The old salts came next, headed by Admiral Russell, and Commodore Wever. Behind them were Commodore Newcomb, Surgeon Knuth, Chief Engineer Ingh, Surgeon Van Rensselaer, Rochester, and others.

The District National Guard was represented by Gen. Ordway and his staff. The Secretary of War, who had given them a special order, was also present.

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DEATH OF GEN. ALEXANDER.

A Veteran of Two Wars Passes Away—His Military Record.

Gen. E. B. Alexander, of St. Paul, Minn., died at the residence of his son-in-law, Col. G. N. Lieber, 1329 Eighteenth street north, last evening in the 80th year of his age. General Alexander was born in Maryland, Va., and on Oct. 6, 1818, entered the military academy at West Point.

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A RIDICULOUS STORY.

THE RUMORED OBJECT OF GLADSTONE'S VISIT TO ITALY.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—A rumour gained wide circulation here to-day that Mr. Gladstone intended to plead the cause of Ireland with the pope during his stay at Rome. The story is extremely ridiculous, and even those most indiscreet in its circulation laugh at the idea. It has no other foundation whatsoever than the fact that Mr. Gladstone is the guest at Florence of Signor Lacaita, who thirty years ago was the liberal leader's private secretary and is the father of Mr. Charles C. Lacaita, who a few weeks ago resigned his seat in the house of commons as member for Dundee.

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OHIO LEGISLATURE.

Disgraced Republicans Combine with the Democrats.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 2.—The sixtieth general assembly convened Jan. 2 o'clock this morning. The house organized by electing F. L. Lamson speaker, David Lanning clerk, and the balance of Republican members. The house members of the Republican senate caucus made nominations for officers Saturday night, selecting B. B. Farnham, of Hamilton, as president and T. J. Hayes, of Lawrence, as clerk.

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THE MINERS WILL STRIKE.

SEVERAL OF THE READING ASSEMBLIES VOTE TO GO OUT.

Thousands of Miners Will Unhappily Quit Work This Morning and Thus Inaugurate a Long and Bitter Struggle.

READING, Pa., Jan. 2.—Coal and freight traffic, while in full operation on the Reading railroad, is not as brisk as it was before the present labor troubles. It is apparent that the new men are unable to move as rapidly as the old ones. The majority of the coal miners are idle, and this likewise has its effect on the traffic.

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